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**Newsletter**  
**Number 2**  
**11 February 2011**



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

**Thanks**

...to those parents who have volunteered to assist with the timing of swimming heats on 14 and 15 February.

.. to those parents who have volunteered as regular helpers in classrooms (timetable confirming times etc will be sent out next week) .

.. to those who have volunteered to help with an annual-fundraising event.

**People of the week**

..Laura qualified for 50m butterfly and 100m backstroke in the NZ Juniors Swimming competition.

*Please keep us informed of the achievements of present and past pupils so that we can celebrate these together.*

**Lost**

Near Pool area - Purple "Balance Power Band" used for balance. If you or your child has found it over the weekend please return to school office asap.

**What's on In Rooms This Term?**

On 15,16,18 February meetings will be held to better inform you about organisation, routines, expectations, timetables, major units of work, significant events etc. in your child's class this term/year. You are encouraged to attend these meetings and will get a chance to ask any questions of a general nature.

Meeting times and locations are as follows:

15 Feb	Middle syndicate discussion (3:15 PM - Room 8)
16 Feb	Junior Syndicate discussion (3:15 PM - Room 2)
18 Feb	Senior Syndicate discussion (3:15 PM - Room 12)

We hope you can set aside the time to attend these meetings. Please advise the school office next week if you are likely to be in attendance.

**Reporting on achievement**

Interested parents are invited to meet with Kevin (principal's office) 3:15 PM Thursday 17 February (we will **relocate** if there are too many of us) to discuss how we will report on achievement this year and how we will meet new National Standards requirements. Our systems are largely unchanged and so this meeting would be most useful for new parents or those with specific questions about National Standards.

**If you will be attending ..**

.. any of the above four meetings please advise the office on Monday morning so we can prepare printed material. If these days / times do not suit, staff are highly available at other times, by appointment.

## **Term Events**

Please pencil the following dates into your calendar. We will advise of further dates as these come to hand.

11 Feb	Interview appointment sheets sent home
14 Feb	Swimming heats start
15 Feb	Middle Syndicate discussion (3:15 PM - Room 8)
16 Feb	Junior Syndicate discussion (3:15 PM - Room 2)
18 Feb	Senior Syndicate discussion (3:15 PM - Room 12)
21 Feb	Test week
23 Feb	Tennis Doubles Tournament
25 Feb	Indicator Reports (for students with us in 2010) and Learner Journey Sheets sent home
28 Feb/1 Mar	Teacher / Student / Parent Conferences
3 March	Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School (pp 5.3)
7 - 11 March	Senior camp
8 March	March meeting of the Board of Trustees
15 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
17 March	School Swimming Sports
21 March	Visiting author
24 March	Triathlon
30 March	Year 4 to 6 Summer Sports Tournament
31 March	Year 7 vaccinations / Year 8 girls HPV vaccination
6 April	Ripper Rugby Tournament
15 April	Final day of term

## **Important notice to parents of year 7 and 8 students**

Our Public Health Nurse will hold a meeting here at school on Friday 18 February (library or staffroom) for parents and children interested in knowing more about forthcoming vaccinations. The year 7 meeting (tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough) will be held from 2:00 to 2:20 PM and the year 8 meeting (HPV) from 2:20 to 2:40. This is an opportunity to ask questions and be better informed.

## **Annual Fundraising events**

The Parent Helpers Form sent home last week also gave parents the opportunity to indicate ONE fundraising event they were willing to support in 2011 (bottom of form). This is an opportunity for parents who have not already made a commitment to do so, and for those involved last year to switch to an alternative event should they wish. **(If parents do not contact us we will assume they are happy to be involved in the same event as last year).**

In order to share the fundraising workload as evenly as possible across the parent body we ask parents to commit to organising only ONE event in any given year.

Any questions (or suggestions) about our fundraising programme should be directed to Sharon Smith on 4338371

## **Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)**

If you did not receive an interview booking form with this week's newsletter please drop by or give our office a call. You will receive advice of your appointment time some time next week. Remember that interview times are allocated on a first in basis and so there is some benefit in getting these back to us early.

## **Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School - 3.3**

Qualifying children will receive consents for this event next week (all going well) **for return the following day.** Attendance for qualifying children (based on timed heats here at school) is optional but encouraged. **If your child misses the qualifying heats and you would like them to attend this event, no promises, but please give Mr Delemare a call.** Updates to follow.

### **International Schools English and Maths Competitions**

We will shortly be calling for expressions of interest in the above programmes. Perhaps give some thought in the meantime to whether or not your child might benefit from inclusion in either or both of these competitions. If you are not sure of your child's suitability for these programmes please feel free to further discuss with Kevin or their classroom teacher.

### **Homework**

Homework is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights homework a week (around 20 minutes each night) with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason or if they wish their child excused from homework altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing homework. **If you do NOT want your child to receive homework please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board please set a regular time and place and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue by getting routines well established.

*(Although the research is a little inconclusive we believe that regular homework routines lead to better performance and a better preparation for secondary school for most children).*

### **Daily Absences**

Parents are reminded -

1. to advise the office by 9:00am if their child will be absent from school that day.
2. to follow up with a signed note specifying reason for non-attendance

Children who arrive at school after 9:00am bell are asked to report to the office on arrival please.

**Tracking absences can be a time consuming process and so parents are asked to help by keeping us fully informed.**

### **School Phone**

Please use the options now when phoning in as this greatly helps the workload of office staff. We assure the answer phones are checked in a timely fashion.

### **School Contributions / Trips and Events Fee**

Thanks to those who have made early payment. If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.

### **Stationery**

If your child does not have their stationery please organise this as soon as possible. You are welcome to source your stationery off site but take care to note the quality of items you purchase, also the price difference is sometimes minimal. Stationery can be purchased throughout the year from the school office.

### **Sunhats**

A reminder that school broad brimmed sunhats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure these are packed at the beginning of each school day. Clothing which covers the shoulders is also advisable with sun block at your discretion.

### **Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)**

The above are scheduled for 28 February and 1 March - an interview booking sheet has been sent out with this week's newsletter. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. While syndicate discussions are an opportunity to talk about matters of a general nature, conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

### Early notice ..

.. that school will finish at 2:30 PM on 28 Feb and 1 March to free teachers to prepare for conferences. Buses will run approximately 30-40 minutes earlier on these days and parents who pick children up from school are asked to do so at this earlier time. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by these earlier closure times.

### Special Needs Programme

If your child has been selected for placement in one of Mrs Comrie's special needs programmes please return consent forms as soon as possible. This is a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme, in an area of need, and parental support with assigned homework tasks is anticipated.

### Punctuality

We request that children are at school at least 10-15 minutes before the morning bell to give them time to settle, connect with their teacher, and prepare for the day ahead.

### PMP

We would really appreciate further offers to assist with this important programme. If able to help please give Mrs Robertson a call. PMP takes place every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon - even if you can help on one of these afternoons it enables us to give existing parent helpers the occasional break.

### Pool Keys

The pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$25 per family for the 2011 swimming season. If you have a key from the 2010 season please forward payment or return your key so we can make these available to other users. A reminder that attending parents are responsible for the safety of children using the pool outside school hours.

### Bus Times

Please assist us by monitoring the behaviour/safety of children waiting at bus pick up points and advise us early of any matters of concern. **We are particularly keen for children to wear their high visibility vests in transit to and from us.** We will encourage them to put these on before boarding the bus at the end of the day but are reliant on parents to ensure children have these on before heading for buses in the morning.

### Pick up of Children

1. Please pick children up from the bottom bus bay or upper carpark. This is a dangerous stretch of road and we request that all parents assist us to minimise risks.
2. If you have made arrangements for somebody else to pick your child up from school, the office must be advised beforehand. Any visitors to the school should report to the office first.
3. Parents of non-bus children are asked to pick their children up by 3:15PM (or later by arrangement with the School Office). Non-bus children remaining at school after 3:25 should be placed in the After School Care Programme.

### End of Day Buses

If your child will not be on their customary bus at the end of the day please -

- ♦ Either 1. Advise the office before 2:45pm (in which case a note is put on the bus clip)
- ♦ Or 2. Write your child's name in the appropriate column on the blackboard in the corridor between room 10 and 11.

This saves time searching for children.

If you wish your child to travel on an alternative bus (i.e. not their regular bus) the prior consent of the office must be obtained. Consent will depend on bus loadings.

### Term Headlice Inspection

Term headlice inspection will take place on Friday 18 February. If willing to help please phone Donna Cates here at school. Where infestation is detected (or suspected) parents will be advised and asked to take appropriate action within 48 hours.

### Measles Outbreak

The Ministry of Health has advised of an outbreak of measles in the Auckland area. This is expected to spread quite quickly. Parents may wish to have unimmunised children immunised. If you suspect measles please keep your child at home and see your general practitioner promptly with any concerns.

### Senior School Raffle

As part of the senior school camp fundraising, all senior school children will be issued with raffled books today. These need to be returned by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you to all those people who donated prizes. If you require extra books to sell, please see Mrs Williams in Room 10.

### Request from our Librarian

Please check bookshelves, behind dressers, under beds etc. and return any books to school as soon as possible.

### Swimming Trials

If able to assist with the timing of swimmers on either 14 or 15 February (senior and middle schools respectively) please give Kevin a call.

*Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) will need to contact their child's teacher before 9:00 AM this coming Monday - we will then include these children in the time trials.*

### Parent Helpers

If you are able to help out at school and have not yet returned your Parent Helpers Form we are happy to receive these this coming Monday. Further forms are available from the office or you can register your involvement by phone on Monday morning. Parent Helpers will be advised of rooms / times on Tuesday.

### Medical Forms/Address/Contact Details

On enrolment, parents provide important details on contacts / custody issues / medical conditions / medications etc. Two years ago we did a major update of this information but need parents to advise the office asap of any changes occurring in the last 12 months. Please continue throughout the year to keep us informed so that we can properly discharge our duty of care to your child(ren).

Some medications should be held at, and administered from, the school office. Please contact us if unsure.

**Where we currently hold medication for your child please call by the office within the next week to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.**

### Swimming

Children are required to have their swimming gear at school each day. Thank you.

### Creating optimal conditions for learning (just a reminder)

An increasing body of educational research is suggesting that some of the biggest improvements in learning can result from simple things like ..

.. **drinking plenty of water.**

Parents are asked to ensure children bring a water bottle to school each day. A reminder that water is preferable to sugar based drinks. We will encourage them to have their water bottle on their desks at all times during the day (a good idea when you consider the brain is 90% water).

... **a good nights sleep.** A target bedtime of 8:00 PM is suggested for all children.

.. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch.** With food as close as possible to its natural form.

.. don't forget to **show an interest** in what your child is doing at school. Share mealtimes with them if possible and don't let them overdo the homework - we all need time to play.

### Lunches

We are mightily impressed by the quality of lunches most of our children bring to school - well done parents. From time to time we are asked by parents to ensure that their children eat a good portion of their lunch. While we do not ask children to eat all of their lunch, we usually ask them to eat most of it, allowing one or two items to be left over at their discretion. All children are asked to eat their sandwiches and fruit first before eating pre-packaged food.

## **Community Notices**

For Rent - Country cottage in Ruatangata, 2 bedrooms + sleepout, new kitchen, bathroom, carpet, lino. \$220pw incl power and lawns. Can be part-furnished. Ph Jenny 4355336.

Firewood - Bone dry, 120yr old pine \$60. Ph 4338185.

Soccer Rally Days - Junior Rally Days Fri 11 Feb 4-6pm and Sun 13 Feb 9-11am, Reed St, Tikipunga. Come along and register for the 2011 season. Call or txt or email don on 4353676, 0272835130 or [don.spice@extra.co.nz](mailto:don.spice@extra.co.nz)

Kamo Tennis Club - Juniors started 8<sup>th</sup> Feb Tuesdays 3.30 to 5.30pm, Club Nights Tuesday & Thursday 5.30pm, Ladies Day Thursday 9-11.30am. All Welcome.

Cancer Society Northland Relay for Life - Last call for team entries, Held March 19-20<sup>th</sup> Lots of fund for all ages and fitness levels. Visit [www.relayforlife.org.nz](http://www.relayforlife.org.nz) or call 09 4375593. Entries close March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Federated Farmers Farm Day - Interactive family event. Experience sights and smells of a working farm. Safe & tactile experience for people of all ages, Sunday 13 March (10am-3pm) For more info contact Matthew Long on 094343370 or email [matty.j.long@extra.co.nz](mailto:matty.j.long@extra.co.nz).

Bike Wise Month Feb 2011 - A variety of cycling activities and challenges around Whangarei including Go Bike Day, Wed 16 Feb, Mayoral Challenge, Sun 20 Feb. For more info visit [www.sportnorthland.co.nz](http://www.sportnorthland.co.nz) or ph 0943779633.

## **Guitar Lessons**

There are a number of vacancies in this popular after school programme (Wednesday & Thursday in the Old School Room - by the upper car park). Cost \$20 per lesson. Vangie has a spare guitar for kids trying out. If interested please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email [killalea@ihug.co.nz](mailto:killalea@ihug.co.nz)

## **Friday Lunches**

.. start within the next couple of weeks. Parents will receive an order form for completion and return to school. Weekly orders must be in no later than Tuesday of the week in question. If you are able to help pickup pies, heat or distribute please contact Michelle Martin on 433 5061. Thank you.

## **Newsletter**

Remember the newsletter can be accessed same day on our school website (along with archived copies). Please keep informed by reading this before the start of each new week. If you would like a copy of the newsletter emailed to you each week just contact Helen on [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

## **School charter**

A summary of our 2011 school charter has been placed on our website (board tab) for those interested. This identifies some of the areas of special focus for this year (also a copy is on the staffroom wall). Kevin is more than happy to discuss this with any interested parties.

## **Finally**

This week a parent told me that after last year's prizegiving her son was so proud of the cup he received that he insisted they take it straight away to show dad. In transit he held his cup out the window of the car for all to see and received cheers and thumbs up from members of the public for much of the way. Thought this was good enough to share.

Regards  
Kevin Trewhella  
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your  
children, please support them

### **Matarau Electrical Services**

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## **A Message from our SKIDS Team**

*Our SKIDS 'Safe Kids in Daily Supervision' would be very pleased to answer any questions you may have in regards to the SKIDS after school program, which is up and running each day. We can now offer fun filled after school supervision until 6pm and remember you could qualify for a subsidy too!*

*Also, please let it be known to them if you would appreciate an Easter Holiday Program being available for your child. If there are enough numbers this could be something to look forward to. To contact Erena or Hannah text or call 0278461724 or pop into the school hall at the end of the school day. Alternatively you will find information and enrolment forms online at [www.skids.co.nz](http://www.skids.co.nz) February 2011*

### THREE WAY CONFERENCES / INTERVIEWS

Dear parents

Please find below a booking sheet for Three Way Conferences on 28 February and 1 March. It is helpful if your children are in attendance at these conferences although this is optional for year 1 children. Although year 2 and 3 children sometimes make a minimal contribution, early exposure to this process breeds experts down the track.

In short these conferences exist for three primary reasons ..

- 1) To give early impressions of how your child has settled in their new class.
- 2) To agree on some targets and goals for term one and beyond.
- 3) For you to bring to our attention any areas of concern.

**You will shortly receive Indicator Reports which should be a useful starting point for goals for this year (please bring these with you).** Alternatively you and / or your child might have quite different ideas which you should feel free to discuss with your child's teacher. This ensures that areas of particular significance for your child are factored into programmes for this year.

Please note that interviews are limited to 15 minutes and so please be on time. It is a good idea to jot down questions and areas of concern beforehand. **School finishes at 2:30 PM on both of these days and so buses will run approximately 30 minutes early.**

**Please complete the form below and return it to school EARLY NEXT WEEK. Interviews are allocated on a first in basis.** If the designated days do not suit you are more than welcome to phone your child's teacher to arrange an alternative appointment time.

Regards Kevin Trehwella PRINCIPAL

.....

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like interviews with the following teacher(s) .. (please tick)

Mrs Bruce / Mrs Robertson ☐ Mrs G Williams ☐ Miss Hewitt ☐ Mrs Bevin ☐  
Miss Blake ☐ Mr Schuster ☐ Mrs Witte ☐ Mrs Williams ☐ Mrs Donaldson ☐ Mr Delemare ☐

I would like to make appointments at the following times if possible (please tick)

Monday 28 February	3:00-4:00 <input type="checkbox"/>	4:00-5:00 <input type="checkbox"/>	5:00-5:30 <input type="checkbox"/>	6:30-7:00 <input type="checkbox"/>	7:30-8:00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 1 March	3:00-4:00 <input type="checkbox"/>	4:00-5:00 <input type="checkbox"/>			